

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, and 13-18 are pending.

Claims 1, 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 7, 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,006,994 to Campbell et al. (Campbell) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0049636 to Hudda et al. (Hudda), in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,868,057 to Chavez, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0186845 to Dutta et al. (Dutta), in view of Official Notice (allegedly evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,614,703 to Martin et al. (Martin)), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161701 to Warmack.

Claims 2-6, 8-9 and 11, and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell, Hudda, Chavez, Dutta, Official Notice (Martin), and Warmack.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell, Hudda, Chavez, Dutta, Official Notice (Martin), and Warmack.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10 and 18, as indicated above, in an effort to address the Examiner's concerns regarding the §112 rejections. Applicants address the rejections under §103 in the accompanying Reasons in Support of Applicants' Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review.

Respectfully submitted,



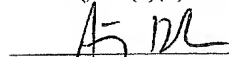
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